

FLEXIBLE TISSUE RETRACTOR AND METHOD FOR USING THE RETRACTOR

Abstract of the Disclosure:

A tissue retractor includes a body having proximal and distal ends. The retractor also
5 includes a retraction device having a head connected to the distal end of the body and
defining two opposing openings, a connector movably disposed in the body, and two flexible
needles of a shape memory material having a memory shape. The needles are fixedly
connected to the connector for traveling through a respective one of the openings. The
memory shape of the needles includes a portion with an arcuate shape. A one-handed
10 actuation device is connected to the proximal end of the body and is operatively connected to
the connector through the body. Upon actuation of the actuation device, the connector can be
moved to selectively extend the needles out of the head and withdraw the needles into the
head. Methods for using the tissue retractor, in particular for the treatment of
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, are also provided.

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